MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 AUGUST 1981

Iran

Raja'i, Bahonar Killed--Tehran radio reported that President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Prime Minister Javad Bahonar were killed by a bomb explosion in the Prime Ministry building on the afternoon of 30 August. Two other people were killed in the blast and several were injured. According to the radio, the Cabinet held an emergency session later in the day, adopting "certain decisions" and condemning the bombing. The Presidential Council, in a statement broadcast by the radio, blamed "the unholy alliance of the hypocrites of the left and right," declared the coming week a period of mourning and announced that the funeral of the "martyrs" would take place on 31 August. An Iranian Government statement, carried by Abadan NIOC radio on 31 August, accused former Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar and former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr of plotting conspiracies and assassinations against the Islamic Republic, using the Mojahedine-e Khalq as their agents. Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanaji, in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio, told mourners at the funeral of Raja'i and Bahonar that the "angry people" demand death for traitors and murderers.

A subsequent Presidential Council statement, carried by the radio, called on all government ministers and officials to continue carrying out their duties carefully and consistently until the appointment of a prime minister. In a statement broadcast by the radio, the joint staff of the armed forces announced that army personnel will continue to fulfill their tasks and that all armed forces and Defense Ministry units and offices will remain open.

AFP cited a Mojahedin-e Khalq supporter in London as announcing that the Mojahedin had claimed responsibility for the explosion. He said they had issued a communique in Paris that described the incident as "the very natural response of the Iranian people to the crimes of Khomeyni and the execution of Mojahedin" and said the "new reactionary government" had executed about 600 Mojahedin during the last 2 months. However, AFP reported later that Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi denied knowledge of the statement issued in London, saying he could not be certain his movement was responsible for the explosion. Rajavi claimed that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni is "finished" and "on his way out," adding that the assassinations were the result of the policy of executions. AFP also reported that Abolhasan Bani-Sadr reacted to the news in a similar vein, saying that those responsible for the violence in Tehran "are precisely those who have suppressed freedom." Another AFP report quoted Bani-Sadr as saying that Raja'i and Bahonar prepared their own deaths by creating a state of violence. He added that he had nothing to do with the bomb attack. In an interview reported by AFP, Shahpur Bakhtiar asserted that the Iranian regime will now fall unless there is foreign intervention.

Executions, Arrests, Other Violence--Citing JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, AFP reported that over the past 2 days 15 leftists were executed and 95 were arrested in a nationwide crackdown on leftwing groups. Tehran radio reported the recent arrest of more than 250 leftists and counterrevolutionaries throughout the country, including 114 arrested during the last 2 months in the towns of Zabol, Zahedan, Iranshahr and Saravan. The radio also noted that "several monarchists" were taken into custody. AFP, citing the Iranian press, and Tehran radio reported that nine revolution guards were killed in several cities. According to the radio, government anti-Kurdish operations in the area of Shapur and Rezaiyeh resulted in 23 rebels killed and many wounded and arrested.

Jordan

Amman television reported that in a 28 August statement to LE MONDE King Husayn stressed the important role that Europe can play in bringing peace to the Middle East by encouraging the call for an international conference involving the Palestinians, the United States, the USSR, Europe and the Third World. The king also said the resumed autonomy talks between Egypt and Israel are doomed because they exclude the PLO.

Cheysson Middle East Tour

Amman television reported the 28 August arrival in Amman of French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson. In an interview with Amman television at the airport, Cheysson said his visit is part of a French factfinding mission, the objective of which is an overall solution to the Middle East problem. At the root of this problem is the future of the Palestinian people, he continued, and the Camp David accords have not addressed that problem, although, he conceded, France thinks the accords have contributed to "some progress." Amman radio noted that at a dinner given in his honor by Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, Cheys Cheysson expressed the French position that negotiations must be held in order to assure security for the states and justice fot the peoples of the Middle East and that all parties concerned must participate, including the PLO. In an interview granted to PETRA-JNA, Cheysson explained that while all Europeans regard the PLO as a representative of the Palestinian people and Palestinian resistance, they do not consider it to be the sole representative. He added that France is in complete agreement with the European principles declared at the Venice summit, namely, the Palestinian right to self-determination "though normal means" and condemnation of the establishment of Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories. According to Amman radio, Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the French foreign minister at a 29 August meeting that Jordan believes in the need to pursue a dialogue with Europe and that the European stand is one of the best means for guiding the United States toward a just and comprehensive position

Cheysson arrived in Beirut on 29 August, Beirut radio reported, where he met with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. The radio said that Cheysson subsequently met with other Lebanese politicians as well as with PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat described his 30 August meeting with Cheysson as constructive, the radio reported, and added that another meeting may be arranged. According to AFP, after the meeting Cheysson reiterated the French view that the PLO is one, but not the sole, representative of the Palestinian people. They can only legally designate their representative, he said, if and when they possess a territory and a state. According to Beirut radio, Cheysson concluded his talks in Lebanon by meeting with President Ilyas Sarkis and other Lebanese leaders, telling them that Lebanon is the "focal point" of his mission in the Middle East and that France is ready to help Lebanon "in the way you decide."

Damascus radio reported that Cheysson arrived in Syria on 30 August.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that a 29 August bomb explosion in the capital killed one person and wounded two others. An AFP report stated the target of the blast was the Iranian television office.

According to Jerusalem radio, Palestinians and Christian militia exchanged fire in southern Lebanon on 30 August. While Jerusalem radio blamed the Palestinians for the outbreak of shelling, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the clashes resulted from attacks by Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces on Palestinian positions.

Libya

In a speech before the 28 August opening session of the international solidarity conference with the Jamahiriyah, held in Tripoli, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi called for the creation of a permanent body devoted to combating imperialism. In the course of his speech, which was carried live by Tripoli radio, Al-Qadhdhafi denounced the United States as the source of international terrorism and aggression and called for moving the UN headquarters from the United States. He concluded by assuring the conference delegates that the Libyan people would be pleased to see Libya become a center for international resistance against colonialism, reaction and racism.

Gulf

Kuwaiti Deal With USSR--The UAE paper AL-KHALIJ reported that a high-ranking Kuwaiti military delegation will shortly visit Moscow to sign an arms purchase agreement. The details of the agreement were worked out last July by a Kuwaiti delegation that traveled to the Soviet capital.

Omani Disavowal of Council Statement--According to Omani Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Oman rejects the recently issued Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) condemnation of the United States for its part in the recent U.S.-Libyan clash over the Gulf of Sidra. Citing an interview published in Muscat, the Ash-Shariqah paper AL-KHALIJ reported that the Omani official criticized the GCC secretary general on the grounds that he did not consult council members before issuing the statement and because they did not authorize him to make political statements.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FIRYUBIN TALKS WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS 28 AUG

BK281621 Belhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 38 Aug 81

[Text] India and the Soviet Union today exchanged views in detail on regional developments with particular reference to the situation in Afghanistan. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin, who flew into New Delhi last night, and Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe today held two rounds of discussions on developments in the region since External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow last month.

Firyubin's recent discussions with the Pakistani leaders on Afghanistan and the U.S. arms supply to Pakistan also figured during the discussions. Matters that might come up at the forthcoming UN General Assembly were also discussed.

Firyubin is having dinner with External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao tonight in a working session.

Press on His Pakistan Visit

BK281507 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1444 GMT 28 Aug 81

[from review of the Indian press for 28 August]

[Excerpts] The Hindustan TIMES in its editorial under the caption "Firyubin's Mission," writes that the Soviet deputy foreign minister retaliates [as received] to Moscow having failed to persuade Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi to moderate his stand on Afghanistan. The Soviet Union has promised Pakistan to help to set up a steel mill and, among other things, offered to build a 1,000 mw nuclear power station. Pakistan could, if it chooses to, milk the Soviet cow for all it is worth, but Islamabad seems to have calculated that just the threat of detente with the Soviets opens up the Saudi coffers and the American armoury. For the moment that is sufficient.

The TIMES OF INDIA in its editorial writes that during his visit to Islamabad, the Soviet deputy foreign minister seems to have drawn a blank on Afghanistan. Pakistan's stand has been that the Soviet Union must withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and leave the people access to the U.S. arsenal, which it can do only if it is willing to fall in line with Washington's bitterly anti-Soviet line. [sentence as received] As such it cannot be seriously interested in meaningful discussion with Moscow. It is, of course, keen to avoid undue provocation to Soviet rulers lest they retailiate by encouraging Baluch dissidents to revive their armed insurrections. That is, in fact, the main reason why Shahi has been protesting that Pakistan will not serve as a conduit for U.S. arms to Afghan rebels. The Soviet Union will not withdraw its troops so long as it is not assured of the survival of a friendly regime in Kabul. Rebels cannot convert Afghanistan into Russia's Vietnam. Above all, the goal of securing the withdrawal of Soviet forces is inconsistent with the objective of replacing the present pro-Soviet set up in Kabul with an anti-Soviet one. Pakistan's main goal should be to secure the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the neighbouring country and not to instal an anti-Soviet government in Kabul.

COVERAGE OF PRK'S HUN SEN'S VISIT TO INDIA

Heng Samrin Letter To Reddy

BK280942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Aug 81

[Text] Visiting Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen called on President Sanjiva Reddy at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. He handed over a personal letter from Kampuchean President Heng Samrin. Samrin in his letter is understood to have expressed his gratitude to the Indian Government for her support against imperialism. He also assured the Indian Government that Kampuchea will remain consistently faithful to its policy of peace, neutrality and nonalignment.

27 Aug Reception Speech

BK291130 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0359 GMT 29 Aug 81

[Text] Phnom Penh, 29 Aug (SPK)--Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao has stated that the Republic of India will do its best to assist in the reconstruction of Kampuchea.

During the reception he gave in New Delhi on 27 August in honor of visiting Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen, Narasimha Rao said:

Kampuchea and India--two developing countries--can cooperate with each other in the interest of their development. It is essential that we have an atmosphere of peace and stability in order to attain our goal. We wish for only one thing: the countries of South Asia or Southeast Asia to devote themselves to creating a zone of cooperation and to settle their differences through peaceful means.

It is difficult, the Indian minister went on to say, to list the sufferings and difficulties that the Kampuchean people have experienced during the past 10 years, and even now. We admire the efforts of the Kampuchean Government regarding the reconstruction of the country. We hope these efforts will bear fruits.

On his part, Foreign Minister Hun Sen thanked the Indian Government for the warm welcome given to him, and for the support and assistance it has given to the Kampuchean people. He expressed his conviction that the relations of friendship and solidarity between Kampuchea and India will strengthen, and said:

At present, the bilateral relations between Kampuchea and India assume an important significance for the powerful solidarity of the nonaligned and developing countries against imperialism and hegemonism which are pursuing a warmongering policy contrary to the will of countries in the world.

He stressed: Following the 7 January 1979 victory, the Kampuchean people have eliminated the Pol Pot remnants, ensured security and built a peaceful life. Presently, the people's power is strengthening everywhere in the country and extraordinary progress has been achieved. The economic bases and social structures are strengthening and developing in the cities as well as in the countryside. This shows that the Kampuchean Government is the authentic representative of the Kampuchean people. The Kampuchean people, who were slaves under Pol Pot, now hold in their hands the destiny of their country. The conference of the Indochinese countries' foreign ministers in Vientiane affirmed their position regarding peace and stability in the region. The U.S. imperialists in collusion with the Chinese expansionists, however, support and train the reactionaries of all stripes to the detriment of peace and against the desires of the Kampuchean people. They use their influence to push the ASEAN countries into opposing the Indochinese countries, and speed up the arms race. The reactionary forces are seeking military superiority to oppose the forces of peace, and particularly to sabotage the Kampuchean revolution and the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Laos solidarity and fraternal friendship, which would allow them to control all of Southeast Asia before expanding into other regions.

Minister Hun Sen pointed out the goals pursued by the PRK: Peace and stability in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

Meeting With Rao

BK310440 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0406 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Text] Phnom Penh, 30 Aug (SPK)--Hun Sen, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, had talks in New Delhi on 27 August with the Indian minister of external affairs, Mr Narasimha Rao, it was learned from the Indian capital.

Mr Hun Sen expressed his thanks to the Indian Government and people for their support for the Kampuchean people's just struggle. This support, he said, is not only an expression of their solidarity with the Kampuchean people, but also encourages the world's peoples struggling against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, expansionism, apartheid and Zionism, for peace, democracy and progress.

Mr Hun Sen informed his host of the situation in Kampuchea and the PRK's foreign policy vis-a-vis the problems related to Southeast Asia. He stressed that the Vietnamese troops will not be present in Kampuchea if there is no threat from the imperialists and international reactionaries against the independence and sovereignty of Kampuchea and other Indochinese countries. The Vietnamese troops will be withdrawn when outside threats cease to exist.

Minister Hun Sen stated that Kampuchea firmly supports India's effort to strengthen good relations with its neighbors.

For his part, Mr Narasimha Rao stated that India has diplomatically recognized the PRK and supports it because the Kampuchean Government controls the entire country and that such recognition responds to the Indian people's wishes. He affirmed that India will continue to give assistance to the building of Kampuchea.

With regard to the situation in Southeast Asia, the Indian minister of external affairs expressed his hopes that the declaration of the February 1981 New Delhi conference of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Nonalignment Movement will be implemented satisfactorily and that all problems involving the countries in the region will be resolved through peaceful means.

The two sides had an exchange of views of the development and strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the economic, cultural and technical fields. At the end of their talks, Mr Narashimha Rao invited Mr Hun Sen to dinner.

On Thursday [27 August], Mr Hun Sen had talks with Messrs Pranab Mukherjee, minister of commerce and [Ramaswamy] Venkataraman, minister of finance; and Shila Kaul, minister of state for education. Their talks dealt with the development of Indian-Kampuchean cooperation in the economic, cultural and technical domains.

On the same day, Mr Hun Sen laid a bouquet of flowers at the monument to Mahatma Gandhi.

Minister Hun Sen and his group visited the Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi.

31 Aug Press Conference

BK310845 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Text] Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen said in New Delhi today that the continued recognition of the Pol Pot regime by the United Nations is a violation of human rights. Addressing a news conference, he described last month's international conference on Kampuchea as interference in his country's internal affairs. The situation in Kampuchea, he said, is irreversible.

Asked about the outcome of his discussions with the Indian Government, Hun Sen said he hoped to get assistance for agriculture and industry.

AIR FORCE WILL RECEIVE JAGUARS NEXT YEAR

BK261653 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 81

[Text] The Lok Sabha has been informed that the Indian Air Force will receive Jaguar aircraft being assembled by the Hindustan aeronautics next year. The house was told in reply to another question that nuclear power plants of 2000 megawatt capacity only will be set up in future as they are economical. A site selection committee has been appointed to suggest suitable locations for them.

MIG-25'S REPORTEDLY ACQUIRED FROM SOVIET UNION

BK261053 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Aug 81

[Text] India has acquired a number of sophisticated MIG-25 intercepting reconnaissance aircraft from the Soviet Union. The aircraft are capable of flying at a speed of 4,000 km per hour. The first indication about this was available from a brief announcement made in New Delhi yesterday that the chief of the Indian Air Force had flown the aircraft at a forward base. A spokesman of the Indian Defense Ministry said they have got a few MIG-25's, but declined to give any further detail.

India is also currently engaged in negotiating the purchase of Mirage-2000 from France.

CPI RESOLUTION SCORES U.S. ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

BK291619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Aug 81

[Text] The Communist Party of India (CPI) has said that the threat from, what is called the Washington-Beijing-Islamabad axis to India has increased by the decision of the U.S. Government to supply modern lethal weapons to Pakistan. A resolution adopted at the 4-day National Council meeting of the party held in New Delhi says the U.S. maneuvers under the bogy of a Soviet threat are increasing tensions everywhere.

Briefing newsmen today, Party General Secretary Rajeshwar Rao said that India is broadly pursuing a progressive foreign policy in a most complicated world situation, but because of the government's vacillation on some crucial issues it was not able to play its proper role. Rao added that the government's domestic policy had added to the people's misery. The left parties should combine and provide a strong opposition to the Congress-I and to the rightist forces.

TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT ON FIRYUBIN VISIT

GF291317 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Aug 81 p 14

["Text" of joint Pakistani-Soviet statement issued in Islamabad 26 August on visit by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Firyubin]

[Text] At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr Nikolay P. Firyubin, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, paid a visit to Pakistan from 24 to 27 Aug 1981. He was accompanied by: (a) Mr Anatoliy I. Valkov, head of the Department of South Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR
(b) Mr Ronald M. Timerbayev, deputy head of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR
(c) Mr Yuriy M. Kotov, assistant to deputy minister for foreign affairs of the USSR.

During his stay in Islamabad, he held three rounds of talks with Mr Agha Shahi, foreign minister of Pakistan, and Mr Riaz Piracha, foreign secretary, Dr M.A. Bhatty, additional secretary, and other senior officers of the ministry. During these talks matters pertaining to bilateral relations, United Nations General Assembly agenda and the international situation were discussed.

During the course of his stay in Islamabad, His Excellency Nikolay P. Firyubin called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and exchanged views with him. The president entertained him to a dinner.

The two sides have agreed that the process of talks and mutual consultation will continue in the future.

DAWN Editorial on Visit

GF291345 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 81 p 5

[Editorial: "Firyubin's Visit"]

[Text] Mr Nikolay Firyubin's 3-day visit to Pakistan has helped to sustain the dialogue between Moscow and Islamabad which began last year with Mr Riaz Piracha's visit to the Kremlin. The joint statement issued on Wednesday notes that the two sides have agreed that the process of talks and mutual consultation will continue in the future. This is to be welcomed for, as reaffirmed by Mr Agha Shahi on a number of occasions, Pakistan desires to have friendly relations with the Soviet Union. The economic assistance provided by the USSR to Pakistan in a number of important sectors of its economy, especially the setting up of the Guddu thermal station and the Karachi steel mills, has certainly helped to widen cooperation between them. Moreover, on a number of issues of global importance the two countries have similar views. Hence, any move to strengthen bilateral cooperation is in the natural order of things, and it is quite understandable that the atmosphere at the three rounds of talks was cordial.

However, it is unfortunate that recent events in the region have not been very conducive to the development of closer cooperation between Moscow and Islamabad. The Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979 has created a situation which directly affects the peace and security of the region and as such has not been acceptable to Pakistan. Not only have the developments in Afghanistan impinged on the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the nonaligned character of that country, they have also come to pose a threat to the security of the neighboring states, especially Pakistan, which shares a long border with Afghanistan. That Islamabad should insist on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the restoration of the independence and nonaligned status of that country is quite understandable and in keeping with the principles and goals of the United Nations, the Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement, of which Pakistan, as well as Afghanistan, is a member.

Although 20 months have elapsed since the Soviet troops first entered Kabul, a political settlement of the issue has yet to be found. But some common ground between the parties concerned, namely the need for a peaceful solution and the eventual withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, has enabled Islamabad and Kabul to initiate a dialogue of sorts through the good offices of the UN secretary general's special representative. Mr Babrak Karmal's latest offer has yet to be formally conveyed to the Pakistan Government but it is significant that it came under discussion at the three rounds of talks Mr Firyubin had with Pakistan officials this week. The basic need of the moment is to get a dialogue started on the basis of the fundamental principles laid down by the United Nations and the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference]. Mr Perez de Cuellar's role in this process could prove to be important. After his latest shuttle between Islamabad and Kabul, Mr de Cuellar is reported to have said in New York that the Karmal regime has agreed to give the United Nations a direct role in the dialogue. In this context, the outcome of the meetings Dr Waldheim is to have with Mr Agha Shahi and Mr Shah Mohammad Dost in New York will determine whether the UN role is to be adequate to the demands of the situation.

HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET DELEGATION CALLS ON HAQ

BK301603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Pakistan steel mills near Karachi will open tomorrow. This will begin a new chapter of technological advancement in the country.

President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who will be inaugurating the steel mills, arrived in Karachi this afternoon on a 3-day visit. Sind Governor Lt Gen S. M. Abbasi and others welcomed the president.

The high-level Soviet delegation which arrived in Karachi yesterday to attend the inauguration ceremony of the steel mills called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq this evening. The President told the delegation that the steel mills project is an important event in Soviet-Pakistan economic relations. He thanked the Soviet Union for assisting in the project. He said that the Pakistan steel mills project is not limited simply to the transfer of machinery only, but with this, Pakistan will gain from the Soviet Union's experiences in the steel industry. The Soviet delegation is led by First Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Vitaliy Morozov. The Soviet delegation thanked the president and the Government of Pakistan for the invitation to attend the inaugural ceremony of the steel mills.

The president also received King Birendra of Nepal who will stay for about 2 hours in Karachi on his way to Paris.

KIRKPATRICK TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS

BK291105 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 29 Aug 81

[Text] The special envoy of the American president, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, held talks with Foreign Minister Agha Shahi in Islamabad this morning on bilateral matters and important international issues on the UN General Assembly agenda. The talks lasted two and a half hours. The Pakistani side included Secretary General of Foreign Affairs S. Shahnawaz, Foreign Secretary Riaz Piracha and other senior Foreign Office officials. Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick was assisted at the talks by members of her delegation and U.S. diplomats based in Islamabad.

The foreign minister hosted a lunch in honor of Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick. It was attended by members of her delegation, U.S. diplomats based in Islamabad, some federal ministers and high government officials. This evening the U.S. President's special envoy is calling on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

DAWN ON INDIAN RESPONSE TO ARMS PROPOSAL

GF271113 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Aug 81 p 7

[Editorial: "Arms Reduction Proposal"]

[Text] In giving her reaction to Pakistan's proposal for mutual arms reduction, the Indian prime minister has just stopped short of foreclosing the possibility of any progress on the move, saying that all matters connected with it will have to be carefully considered in order "not to get caught in a trap." On the face of it, this is a strange construction to put on a proposal which is designed to defuse tension between the two countries and help create a better climate of confidence. Strange, because Mrs Gandhi has put a label on the proposal even while admitting, in the course of a statement she made in the Parliament on Wednesday, that the detailed implications of Pakistan's proposal have yet to be fully examined. In the same context, Mrs Gandhi also touched upon the proposed American arms sales to Pakistan, contending that they were far in excess of this country's need and also bemoaning the fact that the U.S. Administration had not so far assured New Delhi that the weapons to be supplied to Pakistan would not be used against India. Two issues are specially relevant here: First, the quantum and purpose of the projected arms purchases from the U.S. and, secondly, the reality of assurances by the supplier countries with regard to any debarring stipulations applicable to the use of the arms sold or otherwise made available.

To say that the limited quantity of arms that Pakistan has contracted to buy from the U.S. is strictly meant for defensive purposes is to state a widely accepted fact. The normal right of a nation in the area of defense apart, for Pakistan there is a new compulsion to bolster its defense capability in view of the security threat it faces as a consequences of the Afghan developments. The sales agreement with the U.S. is precisely intended to meet this need. As for the insinuation of a possible arms race resulting from this, the argument seems hardly logical if the issue is viewed in the perspective of the existing and the potential military-strategic configuration as between India and Pakistan. Taking the crucially important air power as a pointer, for instance, as Foreign Minister Agha Shahi noted in his statement of 12 July, the relative strength of the two countries is in the region of 5 to 1 in India's favor. Either qualitatively or in quantitative terms, this position is not going to be affected in any significant sense by Pakistan's acquiring of a small fleet of F-16 fighter-bombers which is primarily intended to replace some of the largely obsolete and unserviceable equipment, including the Saber jets of Korean War vintage, which still form the mainstay of Pakistan's air defense. Again, the modest improvement that this country is seeking in its defense capacity through the $3 billion sales arrangements with the United States which also includes a sizable component of economic assistance cannot be accurately judged and evaluated without bringing it into juxtaposition with New Delhi's own grandiose plans for military purchases: nearly $8 billion worth of sophisticated weapons, including the deadly MiG-25 fighter-bombers from the Soviet Union, 200 Jaguar deep-penetration aircraft from Britain and about the same number of Mirage-2000 from France. All these add up to a formidable total strength for a country which also has an indigenous production capacity large and developed enough to take care of nearly 80 to 85 percent of its normal defense needs.

So much for the endless noise over Pakistan's projected military purchases from the U.S. and the so-called arms race they are supposed to start in the region. As for the supplier's assurance that the weapons being sold would not be put to offensive use against a particular country or countries, it is admittedly of not much practical value, for there is no known foolproof means of preventing violations on the sly or in a condition of actual belligerence. This explains why Pakistan has not clamored for such assurances of immunity from the Soviet Union, France and Britain, which are supplying highly sophisticated arms to India.

The real guarantee for both countries lies in working toward a condition of detente on the basis of acceptance of each other's fundamental rights and interests in terms of legitimate defense and forswearing the use of force against each other. Above all, there is need for creating security environment that would inspire confidence on both sides. Pakistan's proposal for a mutual arms reduction is aimed at achieving this objective. It is, in fact, a refined version of the agreed arms ratio formula which Foreign Minister Agha Shahi had suggested for consideration during his talks in New Delhi in July last year. This is proof enough that in meeting its legitimate defense imperatives, Pakistan has no intention whatsoever to pose any security threat to its bigger neighbor or to join in what can only be an unequal arms race with that country. It remains firmly committed to resolve its outstanding differences and disputes with that country by peaceful means as envisaged in the Simla progress. The concept of mutual arms reduction deserves careful consideration, for it provides a basis for lessening tension and distruct which have characterised the mutual perceptions of the two countries and for determining the parameters of the legitimate defense needs of both. In any case, it is important for both sides to examine the idea without any preconception as to its motive or outcome--at least to ascertain whether or not grounds exist for a meaningful exchange of views on the issue at appropriate levels. On the face of it, any progress in this direction could significantly improve the security environment in the subcontinent and open up fresh possibilities of cooperation and understanding between Pakistan and India.

RAJA'I, BAHONAR DIE IN EXPLOSION AT TEHRAN OFFICE

Early Report of Injuries

LD301645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, at 1500 today an explosion occurred in one of the rooms in the building housing the prime minister's office which resulted in Mr Raja'i, the president, and Dr Mohammad Javad Bahonar, the prime minister, being injured. Also as a result of this explosion, a number of employees at the prime minister's office were injured, wounded or martyred.

According to this report, the president and the prime minister are receiving treatment in a hospital.

Our correspondent interviewed Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, Mr Mahdavi-Kani, the minister of the interior, and Behzad Nabavi, the minister in charge of executive affairs, which will be broadcast as soon as the tape is ready.

AFP Report

NC301614 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Text] Tehran, 30 Aug (AFP)--The official news agency PARS delayed announcement of the explosion for more than two hours, saying that a "bomb attack" had injured "several ordinary people according to initial reports." The agency said nothing about the officials.

But according to informed sources, Mr Raja'i was presiding at a Superior Defense Council meeting at the offices when the blast occurred.

The sources said the meeting was attended by Mr Bahonar, Mr Rafsanjani, Defense Minister Col Musa Namjuy and chief of the armed forces, revolutionary guards, the vice-speaker of parliament and two representatives of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, including Tehran religious chief Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i.

The sources added that an Economic Council meeting chaired by Executive Affairs Minister Behzad Nabavi was being held in another room in the building at the time of the explosion.

There was no immediate claim for the attack, which was reported by Radio Tehran three hours after it happened.

Flames and thick black smoke spread quickly through the modern six-storey building following the early afternoon blast.

Fire-fighters and revolutionary guards battled the blaze with difficulty for one hour before bringing it under control. Shortly after, firemen began leaving the scene.

About 30 gas-masked rescue workers, some wearing asbestos jackets, entered the building through first-floor windows in search of casualties.

Shortly after the fire started, four injured people were driven off in official cars of the prime minister's office. Several other injured people, apparently rescue workers, were carried from the burning building over the shoulders of other rescuers and taken to a small hospital 50 yards (meters) away.

While security guards carried piles of files and documents from the prime minister's office, two army helicopters circled over the building as some 10 ambulances arrived.

After fire-fighters controlled the blaze, about 40 engineers equipped with shovels arrived, apparently to start clearing away debris.

A large contingent of armed security forces and revolutionary guards cordoned off the area around the building, as well as the Majlis building just 200 yards away where members of parliament had been meeting.

The parliament broke off its session one-half hour after explosion. Tehran radio at first ascribed its interruption of a broadcast of the debate to a 'technical breakdown."

About 10 armed revolutionary guards maintained a watch outside the charred first floor windows of the building, while security forces stood guard outside.

Extraordinary Cabinet Session

GF301811 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Text] PARS reports that at 1500 today an explosion occurred in a room in the building housing the prime minister's office resulting in the injury of President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Prime Minister Dr Bahonar. The explosion also resulted in the injury of several employees of the Prime Minister's Office.

The Cabinet held an extraordinary session this evening. Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi, Interior Minister Mahdavi-Kani and other ministers participated in the meeting. The meeting was held at the Majlis. The Cabinet discussed the explosion in a room in the Prime Ministry. Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended the meeting. The appropriate measures in regard to the explosion were adopted. The Cabinet condemned the savage actions perpetrated by U.S. hirelings.

After the meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We expect such incidents. The Iranian people are prepared to shoulder responsibility for continuation of the revolution. We shall [words indistinct] in carrying out our duty. Whether we exist or not this revolution must continue in its course with the citizens' participation. We hope God will preserve with His care Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic.

Interview of Officials

LD301809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1714 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Interview with Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi by unidentified Voice and Vision correspondent in Tehran 30 August--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Several hours after the explosion in one of the rooms in the Prime Ministry building in which Mr Raja'i and Mr Bahonar were injured, Mr Rafsanjani chaired an extraordinary Cabinet session. I would like to ask Mr Mahdavi-Kani about the reason for holding this session and what issues were raised at the session.

[Mahdavi-Kani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is we who have sent down the remembrance and we watch over it. [Koranic verse] With the help of the most exalted God, hoping for God's mercy and His assistance, the session was held after the explosion that occurred at the Prime Ministry. I observed the incident myself because I was on my way to the Prime Ministry when I heard a radio report on the explosion. I returned to the Interior Ministry to implement the necessary measures for medical assistance and security. Later it was decided to hold the Cabinet session to review the incident and discuss the government's duties in the future. So, in the presence of His Excellency Rafsanjani, brother ministers came and the necessary issues were discussed. Other issues relating to the future will be made available to the people, God willing.

[Question] Mr Rafsanjani, you held an open session of the Majlis today. Could you tell us how you learned about the incident?

[Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Precisely at the time our evening session was scheduled to start at 1500, we heard an explosion and saw a thick column of smoke rising from the Prime Ministry building. The session, of course, began its work. Afterward we learned that the explosion had, unfortunately, occurred in a room in which His Excellency President Raja'i and His Excellency Prime Minister Bahonar were present as well as several others. We rapidly investigated the matter. It transpired that a number of these people had been injured and are now in the hospital; of course, Mr Nabavi, who himself was in the Prime Ministry and from whom we have learned much of this information, is more aware of the situation.

Because I knew that Mr Raja'i and Mr Bahonar would not take part in the Majlis session today, I thought it would be useful to the government if I attended the session officially in order, if necessary, to comment on topical issues.

[Question] Please give the nation any message you might have from the session.

]Rafsanjani] The message is the same as in the past. We have been prepared and are prepared for such unpleasant incidents. Our nation should be prepared to carry the burden of continuing the revolution. We, like the rest, are mere servants, and whether or not we are here, the revolution must continue with the people being particularly involved. May God maintain the imam's shadow over us.

[Question] Mr Nabavi, you were in the Prime Ministry building. Did you see the incident?

[Nabavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It was about 1500 when I heard the explosion which was not very loud. I looked through the window into the Prime Ministry; I saw flames and smoke coming out of one of the rooms. We rapidly went to the lower floor along with one or two of the brothers who were there. We saw that an explosion had occurred in one of the rooms. Some of those who were in the room were able to walk out of it unaided and suffered only superficial wounds. As for the others, fire officers arrived on the scene within 5 to 10 minutes and put out the fire, and brought the rest out immediately and transferred them to hospitals.

Perhaps there were about 14 to 15 people in that room. We saw three or four of them who walked out unaided; the rest had superficial and minor injuries; and another group which had more serious injuries has been transferred to the hospital. Mr Raja'i, the president, and Mr Bahonar, the prime minister, are unfortunately among the group that has been transferred to the hospital.

Announcement of Deaths

LD310420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Aug 81

Presidential Council Statement on 31 August

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. How many of the prophets fought and with them large bands of godly men? But they never lost heart if they met with disaster on Allah's path, nor did they weaken or submit. Allah loves those who are firm and steadfast. [Previous three sentences of Koranic verse are rendered in Arabic] Muslim, self-sacrificing and committed people of Iran: The Islamic Republic of Iran has once again sacrifieced its best sons for Islam, the revolution and the oppressed people of the world. The president and the prime minister have been martyred by the enemy's fifth column, the servants of imperialism and Saddam.

The unholy alliance of the hypocrites of the left and right, under orders from criminal America, set off an incendiary bomb in one of the consultative offices of the Prime Ministry building and robbed the self-sacrificing and heroic Iranian nation of these two revolutionary, doctrinaire and self-sacrificing Muslims. Martyr Raja'i, the dear president, and martyr Bahonar, the dear prime minister, joined the army of the revolution's martyrs. In addition, a number of our other dear brothers were wounded.

A revolution such as Iran's must be ready to make such sacrifices. May God preserve the imam, the leader of the revolution, until such time as the Mahdi reappears for the world's Muslims. We expect you heroic Muslims to demonstrate your patience and resistance and, by being alert, your invincibility and that of the revolution, and thus disappoint the enemies of the revolution who have risen against it.

The Presidential Council, with the imam's permission, declares Monday, 31 August, through Friday, 4 September, a period of mourning throughout the country. It expects all classes of the nation, especially the heroic fighters on the frints, to fulfill their Islamic duties to safeguard the Islamic Republic.

The bodies of the martyrs will be carried in a funeral procession from outside the Majlis beginning at 1000 today. We congratulate and condole the nation and the families of the martyrs on the occasion and reiterate that their blood thus shed will guarantee the victory of God and the defeat of heresy and hypocrisy.

[Signed] The Presidential Council

Identification of 4 Killed

LD310535 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Text] We hereby announce the identities of the martyrs killed in the bomb explosion at the Prime Ministry building:

1. Martyr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the beloved and elected president of Iran.

2. Martyr Mohammad Javad Bahonar, the beloved prime minister of Iran.

3. Brother Masud Kashmiri, one of the employees of the prime minister's office.

4. One old woman passerby.

Several employees of the prime minister's office were also injured in the incident.

Funeral Proceedings

GF310925 [Editorial Report] Tehran domestic service in Persian at 0510 GMT on 31 August begins carrying the live proceedings of the funeral ceremony being held for President Raja'i and Prime Minister Bahonar in front of the Majlis building in Tehran. The radio begins by carrying Koranic verses and religious chants. An unnamed Majlis deputy--identified on Tehran international service in Arabic as Tehran Majlis Deputy Hejazi--begins speaking. He says the 36 million Muslim people of Iran will never forget and will never forgive the United States for the crimes it has committed. He says that only Saddam, Begin, As-Sadat and the United States are happy with what has happened in Iran. People attending the ceremony can be heard chanting "Death to the United States."

Continuing his speech, he says: "We deputies are not here to sit on chairs. We are here to sacrifice our blood for the continuation of the Islamic revolution. Today, we have shown that there is no place for minigroups in this nation. This nation--with the permission of the nation's imam--will purge all antipopular, Mojahedin and Feda'iyan minigroups in one night!"

The crowd then begins chanting: "The Hypocrites should be hanged!" and "Death to the United States!" The announcer asks them to pay attention to the speech by Mr Ma'adikhah, the national guidance minister. He begins his speech by reciting a few verses from the Koran and extends his condolences and congratulations on the martyrdom of Raja'i and Bahonar. He assures the crowd that the government, Majlis and Presidential Council will continue to work. He adds: "The United States and its mercenaries are wrong in thinking that Iran's Islamic revolution will fail. During their interviews, the treacherous Bani-Sadr and Rajavi have said that the Islamic Republic of Iran depends and relys upon only five persons. Two of these five are being carried on your shoulders. They have told the United States that if these five persons are assassinated the Islamic Republic will be destroyed." The minister continues by saying that the Islamic Republic does not depend on 5 or 500 persons. He refers to the recent presidential election and claims that the entire nation is supporting the Islamic Republic.

After the national guidance minister's speech, the radio carries martial music. This is followed by a speech by an unnamed Majlis deputy who describes the values of martyrdom. He says God has created this Islamic Republic, and it is the duty of every Muslim to defend its gains and fruits. The deputy concludes his speech by assuring the people that the "doors of heaven" are open for them to join these martyrs. He attacks the United States for plundering the natural resources of the Persian Gulf and says it is afraid of the Islamic Republic and its anti-U.S. stand. He asks people to defend the gains of the revolution. He says youths are dutybound to look after public places and should not let any counterrevolutionary elements carry out plots.

The announcer then asks the crowd to pay attention to Amlashi Rabbani, the prosecutor general of Iran. He is welcomed by the crowd chanting "God is great!" He begins his speech by reciting verses from the Koran and conveys his condolences on the martyrdom of the president and the prime minister. He assures people that he and his colleagues are dutybound to serve the Muslim nation of Iran and to work for the victory of the revolution. During his speech, he describes the importance of the Islamic revolution courts and assures people that the courts will deal with counterrevolutionary elements. He says that the prosecutor general had been under the impression that the deceived youths would turn to Islam. Unfortunately, this has not happened. Addressing court officials, he says that the Islamic courts should follow the example of Imam 'Ali, who "in one day killed 4,000 people."

Amlashi asks the people to be vigilant day and night to foil the plots of the counter-revolutionaries. He says they should be alert, because the enemy will appear in the guise of revolution guards and mobilization members.

Following Amlashi Rabbani's speech, the announcer says that the Friday imam--who is not further identified--will deliver a speech. The announcer says the imam has just come from the hospital. In his speech, he says that the enemies of the revolution and the paid agents of international oppression are not the enemies of the revolution alone but are the enemies of every Muslim and Islam. He condemns the United States for the assassinations and claims they are the result of the nature of the United States, which is the enemy of Islam.

He continues by describing Raja'i and praising his Islamic behavior. He says Raja'i and Bahonar were servants of the Islamic nation. The Friday imam praises Islam, describes the values of martyrdom and then begins crying. At the end of the Friday imam's speech the station carries martial music.

The announcer then says that Mr Keyavash, the "injured" Abadan deputy, will deliver a speech. Keyavash begins his speech by reciting a few verses from the Koran. He conveys his condolences on the martyrdom and says the people will defend the fruits of the revolution until the last drop of their blood.

This speech is followed by music and chants of "God is great!" and "Khomeyni is the leader!" An unidentified speaker begins to scream that all chants should be directed against the real killer of the martyrs, the United States, and follows this by chanting "Death to the United States!" This is followed by religious chants praising Raja'i and his martyrdom.

Defense Minister Namju begins speaking once the chanting subsides. He warns "the criminal United States" that the president and the Cabinet remain and so will the revolution. He says they will continue on the path of the martyrs and goes on to further attack the United States.

Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani follows Namju with a speech. Having requested that the bodies of the martyrs be moved, Rafsanjani ends his speech and an unidentified speaker then announces the route the procession will follow.

However, before they begin to move, a member of Raja'i's family begins a short speech by reciting poetry and announcing that millions of men like Raja'i and Bahonar will be and have been trained by the Koran and Imam Khomeyni. He then says he hopes the Arab people will awaken and Muslims throughout the world will unite so the flag of Islam can be seen around the world. He announces he is not saddened by the death of these people, because they are martyrs. He thanks the crowd for their participation in the ceremonies.

Religious chants begin again with occasional chants calling for revenge. The radio announcer then says: "One of the brothers named Kashmiri has joined the line of martyrs." Kashmiri was one of the victims of the bomb explosion. The radio then begins carrying Koranic verses. Chanting can be heard in the background for some time.

The live broadcast of the funeral proceedings ends at 0729 GMT with the following announcement: "We now discontinue the live broadcast of the funeral ceremonies for the martyrs."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speech

GF310834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0705 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Speech by Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani given during mourning ceremony for President Raja'i and Prime Minister Bahonar held in front of the Majlis building in Tehran--live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Those who burned the holy body of the president of our revolutionary country and the body of the revolutionary, faithful and beloved prime minister of ours....

God asks this question in the holy Koran, and the matter has been discussed in the past under the title of "people of the ditch" [a group of people who were killed in ancient times for their beliefs]. God has cursed them, cursed them to death.

Death to those who created a hell with fire and burned a group of faithful believers and followers of the philosophy for their faith and their adherence to the philosophy.

God has cursed them--these people of the ditch, the arsonists and the bombers. This curse is death. This death must be carried to them by the hands of you people, the revolution courts and security officials. Death to these traitors, murderers, Saddam's fifth column and the fifth column of the United States! Their death must be carried out by the people. Today, (?there is) this immense gathering of you people, this unprecedented gathering of angry people, people who have reached their limit with the weak confrontation between security officials and counterrevolutionaries and scream for revenge, punishment and justice. Security officials should give you a positive answer today. We [interruption by mourners chanting].

All advice has been given, all requests have been made, all ultimatums have been issued and all requests for repentence have been put to them, but they have shown they have not left themselves a way to return. They have burned their bridges behind them. Today you are carrying to the cemetery the body of a president, the burned body of a president--who received 14 million votes from Muslim people. What other punishment is there for the criminals who have confronted our revolution but death?

So that people will not be bothered by the heat and pressure of the (?crowd), please begin moving the bodies toward the center for martyrs, Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, this heaven for our martyrs.

Government Statement

GF310759 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Statement by Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran--presumably 31 August]

[Text] In His exalted name. But the plotting of evil will hem in only the authors thereof. [Koranic verse]

Oh heroic and Islamic Iranian nation! Once again we congratulate you on the martyrdom of two of our dear children, the descendants of martyrs, the travelers on the road to martyrdom and the source of the spring of martyrdom--which they had adored for a long time. They both struggled for truth and left together to meet almighty God. One of them is our beloved President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and the other is our dear Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar.

On our people who are enduring pain with bravery and patience! The nation's bloodsucker--the United States--has launched a military front through its agent Saddam and has also launched a political and military front through its agents Bani-Sadr, Bakhtiar and others. As you have seen, they have continued their tendentious propaganda and have continued to plot the conspiracies and assassinations that are being carried out by their agents, the hypocrites. They believe that through these plots they can deal a fatal blow to the solid Islamic revolution. This revolution has, despite its young age, humiliated colonialism and its agents. What will happen if this revolution and this nation continue?

The ship of our Islamic revolution will continue to sail through the rough sea that has been created by imperialism and its agents. The captain of this ship is Khomeyni, the great man of the times. Its passengers are the children of this heroic nation. Its guide and navigator is the awaited Imam Mahdi. Its guardian and preserver is almighty Allah, who said in his book: It is our promise that the believers must succeed.

Ministers Asked To Continue Work

LD210728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0706 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Unscheduled announcement--Statement by the Presidential Council on 31 August]

[Text] In His exalted name. We congratulate and at the same time express our condolences to all our colleagues on the occasion of the martyrdom of President Raja'i and Prime Minister Bahonar. We call on all ministers and ministerial and government department officials to continue their duties carefully and consistently until the appointment of a prime minister.

Defense Offices Remain Open

LD310523 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Statement by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 31 August]

[Text] In His exalted name. We come from God and shall return to him. The Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its congratulations and condolences to the imam of the umma [Muslim community] and to the Iranian nation.

The army personnel, fully alert and without the slightest interruption, will continue to fulfill their tasks. Consequently, none of the units and offices of the armed forces and the Ministry of Defense will be closed today.

Armed Forces Statement

GF310954 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 0830 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Statement issued on 31 August by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the death of President Raja'i and Prime Minister Bahonar]

[Text] In His exalted name. From God we come and unto Him we return.

The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran extends its congratulations and condolences to the martyr-nurturing Islamic nation of Iran and to the representative of the awaited imam, the great Khomeyni. The men of the armed forces are vigilantly and ceaselessly carrying out their sacred duty in defending the dear Islamic homeland, Iran.

Interior Minister Urges Vigilance

LD310610 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0521 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Unscheduled announcement--Statement by Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani on 31 August--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In His exalted name. Muslim and heroic Iranian nation: Raja'i, this manifestation of resistance and virtue, and the great Bahonar, the combative and committed clergyman, who were defending Islam and the Muslims in the trenches of the Presidency and Prime Ministry, have been martyred for God and Islam and the imam's true path. We come from God and shall return to him.

While expressing its congratulations and condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom of these beloved ones, the Interior Ministry declares to the hidden imam, his deputy, the icon-smasher; and the heroic Iranian nation that the Muslim Iranian nation possesses millions of beating hearts like those of Raja'i and Bahonar to give for God and Islam. The hypocrites and their Eastern and Western masters must bear in mind that those who seek martyrdom have no fear of death. It is necessary for the martyr-nurturing Iranian people to remain alert and maintain their revolutionary patience and dignity for the sake of God and to avoid any action emanating from anger. All offices of governorships and district offices as well as security forces and revolutionary institutions are dutybound to take decisive steps to foil and crush any suspicious movements. In taking part in the memorial services for these martyrs, every Iranian must remain extremely alert and aware and thus strengthen the 36 million-strong intelligence organization.

Police To Report For Work

LD310654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Text] The personnel of the Police Department of the Islamic Republic of iran are hereby informed that all security and administrative offices of the Police Department will operate normally today. Personnel should report for work as usual.

Fars People Asked To Remain Calm

GF310621 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 0552 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Announcement by the Fars Governor General's Office on 31 August 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We convey our congratulations and condolences to the awaited imam, peace be upon him, and his just representative, Imam Khomeyni, on the great tragic event of the martyrdom of the learned president and the dear prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The esteemed citizens of Shiraz are requested to attend the marches that have already started from Vakil Mosque and will end at the holy shrine of 'Ali ibn-Emusa.

The esteemed citizens of Shiraz and the dear people of Fars Province are asked to use the matchless power of the Islamic and popular intelligence service and to be constantly alert to learn of the plots of the counterrevolution. They should remain calm.

Mojahedin Group Takes Credit

NC302200 Paris AFP in English 2158 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Text] London, 30 Aug (AFP)--The Iranian leftist people's Mojahedin reportedly has claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Iranian premier's office today.

A spokesman of the Moslem Students' Association in London supporting the Mojahedin telephoned to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Bureau here tonight to announce that the Mojahedin had claimed responsibility. He said they did this in a communique issued in Paris stating:

"This is the very natural response of the Iranian people to the crimes of Khomeyni and the execution of Mojahedin. The new reactionary government has made it its priority to suppress the Mojahedin..." In two months, the government had executed "about 600 people from the Mojahedin," the statement said.

Rajavi Comments

NC310714 Paris AFP in English 0708 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Text] Paris, 31 Aug (AFP)--Massoud Rajavi, exiled leader of the Islamic leftist movement "Peoples' Mojahedin", commenting today on the assassination of the Iranian president and prime minister, said: "Khomeyni is finished. He is on his way out."

He said the assassination was "the result of Khomeyni's politics which have led to executions after executions."

Mr Rajavi, in an interview with Europe-1, said that he could not be certain that his movement was responsible for the assassinations.

Asked about a statement issued by his movement in London claiming to have carried out the attack, he said: "I do not think this statement is one of ours. I have not been informed about it."

He said there were 1,200 political prisoners in Iran at the moment, or three times more than during the shah's time.

He said the attack "was important, but not very, very important. What is important is the anger of the people."

Asked about the possibility of the Khomeyni regime changing its policies, he replied: "If one can change black to white then one can change Khomeyni."

Bani-Sadr Comments

NC302043 Paris AFP in English 2021 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Text] Paris, 30 Aug (AFP)--Violence in Tehran was the direct consequence of executions and the "total suppression of freedom" in the country, exiled former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said here today.

He was commenting on today's explosion at the offices of Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar in which five people were killed and 15, including the premier and President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i injured.

Mr Bani-Sadr, who has been in France since July 29, said in a communique released from his residence at Auvers-sur-Oise, north of Paris, that those responsible for this violence "are precisely those who have suppressed freedom."

Sources close to the ex-president said that although they did not know who was behind today's explosion, they did not exclude the Islamic leftist Mojahedin movement, one of whose principal officials, Mas'ud Rajavi, fled to France with Mr Bani-Sadr.

Such actions as today's explosion are "the only way of getting rid" of the regime of religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the sources said.

In a press interview here last week, Mr Bani-Sadr said that the Tehran government would collapse if five top men, including Mr Raja'i, Mr Bahonar and Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani were killed.

Further Remarks

NC310742 Paris AFP in English 0737 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Text] Paris, 31 Aug (AFP)--Ousted Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said today that his successor Mohammed 'Ali Raja'i and Prime Minister Mohammed Javad Bahonar, killed in a bomb blast yesterday, had virtually "committed suicide" with their violent policies.

Mr Bani-Sadr, who has lived in exile here since July 29, told Europe-1 radio: "They prepared their own deaths and committed suicide", adding, "it goes without saying that those who create a state of violence become their own victims."

However he stressed that he had nothing to do with the bomb attack which he considered "was foreseeable."

He suggested to journalists that they ought to send a cable on his behalf to Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni reading: "Stop this violence. You are a religious man. You can not suppress freedom."

Mr Bani-Sadr said that yesterday's bomb attack in the prime minister's office could only have been carried out with widescale public support.

He agreed that Ayatollah Khomeyni was "undobtedly a force in Iran", but a negative one.

Mr Bani-Sadr said that he intended to remain in France as short a while as possible. (In Tehran today, an orator addressing crowds gathering for the funeral of the two leaders said that if Mr Bani-Sadr returned to Iran he should be "executed and cut into pieces by the people.")

Shapur Bakhtiar Comments

NC310914 Paris AFP in English 0902 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Text] Paris, 31 Aug (AFP)--The fundamentalist regime in Iran "will fall unless there is a foreign intervention," Shapur Bakhtiar, the last Iranian premier under the shah, predicted here today. Mr Bakhtiar was commenting on the assassination yesterday in Tehran of Iranian President Mohammed 'Ali Raja'i and Premier Mohammed Javar Bahonar.

Interviewed by telephone, Mr Bakhtiar said the Tehran regime now had "its back against the wall."

He had only hard words for fellow exiles, ex-president Abolnasan Bani-Sadr and People's Mojahedin leader Mas'ud Rajavi, saying they should keep silent as they were "the architects of the Islamic Republic" they were now opposing.

Among monarchist opponents of the Islamic Republic, the view was that "for Iran, the hour of liberation is close by."

Referring to the recent seizure by an Iranian monarchist commando of an Iranian gunboat on its maiden voyage from its French builders, Princess Azzadeh Shafiq, a niece of the late shah, said that this "external action by the imperial army" had been bound to have "immense consequences within Iran."

GUARDIANS VALIDATE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL LEGALITY

LD311334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Text] PARS reports that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, sent the following letter to the Council of Guardians:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Honorable Council of Guardians: According to the article of the Constitution stating that during the absence, illness or dismissal of the president, a council is to be formed with the name of Interim Presidential Council and consisting of the president of the Supreme Court, the speaker of the Majlis and the prime minister. According to that article of the Constitution, is this council legal if only a majority of its members are present? And can this council then carry out the duties delegated to it according to the law? For example, is the council legally valid if only the speaker of the Majlis and the president of the Supreme Court are present, and can it carry out the duties described in Articles 130 and 131? Please communicate the views of that esteemed council to the Islamic Majlis as soon as possible.

[Signed] Speaker of the Islamic Majlis Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, 30 August 1981

The text of the reply given to the letter from the Majlis speaker by the Council of Guardians is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Honorable speaker of the Islamic Majlis, referring to your letter Ref No 1762 DD, 30 August 1981, the matter was discussed and reviewed in the council. The council's view is hereby announced as follows:

Considering the fact that the main point of Articles 130 and 131 [of the Constitution] is to prevent]word indistinct] and the neglect of the country's affairs and since two of the three members of the Presidential Council are present, the council has a quorum which legally validates the council. If one of the members of the said council has died, and if the other two members of the said council agree, their decisions and actions in the presidential council are legal and valid. [signed] 31 August 1981.

29 AUGUST CABINET SESSION APPROVES BUDGET PROPOSAL

LD291322 Tehran Domestic Service in rsian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 81

[Text] The Cabinet held a session this morning with President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i in the chair. The meeting, which began with the recitation of verses from the Koran, lasted more than 3 hours. President Raja'i, Prime Minister Bahonoar and Minister of State for Executive Affairs Nabavi briefed Cabinet members on domestic political affairs and international developments. The prime minister spoke of proposals regarding greater coordination among the country's executive organs.

The Cabinet confirmed that the committee responsible for drafting the government's economic policies should continue its work. The committee resumed its deliberations today.

The Cabinet was also briefed by Mr Najafi, minister of culture and higher education, on Iranian students abroad and their foreign exchange allowances, steps taken to date and ministry plans.

The Cabinet approved a proposal submitted by Mr Banko, minister of state and budget and planning organization chief, that 750 billion rials be allocated for the implementation of development, production and infrastructure projects within the framework of the 1981-1982 budget. Of this allocation, 33.1 billion rials will be spent for government buildings and establishments, 3.1 billion rials for education and training, 31.6 billion rials for health and treatment, 28.4 billion rials for urban development, 63 billion rials for housing, 51.6 billion rials for agricultural and rural development programs, 63.6 billion rials for water programs, 106.9 billion rials for electricity programs, 140.1 billion rials for mining and industries programs, 125.4 billion rials for communication programs, 14.6 billion rials for post and telecommunications and 67.6 billion rials for gas and paraffin programs. [all figures as heard]

MATERIAL ON INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION

Religious Figure Assassinated

LD291158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Sheykh Hassan 'Asgari, Reconstruction Crusade Executive Council member, Imam Relief Committee Council member and (Kochesfahan) Friday imam, was assassinated at his house last night by the mercenary U.S. hypocrites organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. The assassins used a G-3 machinegun to shoot him in the heart and foot.

The (Kochesfahan) mobilization unit has arrested one person in connection with this incident.

Team Houses Discovered

LD281742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 38 Aug 81

[Text] PARS, quoting the Islamic Revolution Central Committee spokesman in Ahvaz, reports that with the cooperation of the Muslim people of Ahvaz, five team houses belonging to the hypocrites were discovered by the Islamic Revolution Committee in Ahvaz and a number of the organization's supporters were arrested. The spokesman added that a large number of explosives, boobytrap wires, fuses, brass knuckles, knives, processing equipment, leaflets, publications, tapes and harmful books belonging to the hypocrites organization and other minigroups were discovered. He said those arrested were handed over to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Ahvaz.

2 Killed in Rasht

LD281736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 81

[Text] Quoting the Public Relations Office of the revolution guards corps in Rasht, PARS reports that two members of the mobilization organization of the revolution guards corps in Rasht, Tahmaseb Bahari and Isa Monfared, were shot yesterday afternoon outside Pursina Hospital by the pro-American treacherous hypocrites and were subsequently martyred. According to the same report, the terrorists fled by car after committing their tragic act. The authorities are investigating the incident.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 615-618

615: 27 Aug Report

LD271750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Aug 81

[Communique No 615 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] On 26 August the high-flying eagles of the air force bombed enemy positions in the (Mared) region with complete bravery, inflicting losses and casualties on the enemy forces. After these successful operations, the high-flying eagles of the air force returned safely to their base.

Eight aggressor Iraqi aircraft violating our dear country's airspace chose to flee rather than stay in the face of fire from army air defense units.

The Iraqi forces opened heavy weapon fire on the city of Abadan, damaging two shops and causing fire in a few civilian regions, and injuring some of the defenseless inhabitants of Abadan.

The exchanges of fire between the valiant self-sacrificers of the police on enemy positions in this region destroyed two heavy machine-gun positions, two individual trenches, two collective trenches and three aggressor assembly points and a number of the Iraqi Armed Forces' personnel were killed or injured.

As a result of accurate fire by the navy's able self-sacrificers on Iraqi positions in the Khoramshar region, one tank, two trenches, two ammunition dumps and several vehicles were destroyed. The enemy contantly and aimlessly fired on our positions but did not succeed in inflicting any casualities on our forces.

On the Dezful front, as a result of the army combatants' artillery fire on Iraqi fortifications, 1 truck, 1 personnel carrier were destroyed and 10 Iraqi armed forces personnel were killed.

As a result of Islam's accurate artillery fire on enemy positions, in the west of the country, 10 trenches, one 50-caliber gun implacement, 1 gun, 3 vehicles, 1 ammunition trench, 1 tank and 1 command vehicle were destroyed and a number of enemy forces was killed or injured.

There were sporadic exchanges of fire between our forces and the enemy on Gilan-e-Gharb, Dar Ballut, Bazi Deraz, [word indistinct] Tang-e-Hajiyan, Shar-e-Shirin, Dasht-e-'Abbas, ('Ain Khosh), Susangerd, Karkheh Kur, Dezful and Ahvaz fronts.

Meanwhile, two Iraqi civilians surrendered to the Islamic units and asked for asylum.

The self-sacrificing combatants of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces presented the valiant nation of Iran with 16 martyrs on 24 August. Peace upon their souls, and may their path become the valiants' inspiration, enabling them to protect the Islamic homeland of Iran with honor.

616: 28 Aug Report

LD281808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 81

[Communique 616 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The combatants of the ground forces pounded enemy positions in the Panjvin region in Iraq and destroyed a field gun, three vehicles and an ammunition depot belonging to the Iraqi forces and killed a number of personnel. Artillery and mortar fire exchanges continued in Nowsud, Meymak, Gilan-e Gharb, Ilam, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, 'Bazi Deraz and Tang-e Hajyan. At 0420 yesterday two Iraqi personnel were killed and a number were forced to flee at the Meymak front. A truck and a number of group trenches were also set on fire. At the Ilam front, five enemy personnel were killed and three group trenches, several tank positions and ammunition dumps were destroyed.

At the Nowsud front, a truck carrying Iraqi personnel was destroyed, along with several Iraqi forces' trenches. The heroes of the gendarmerie at the Dar Blaut and (Chaghalvand) fronts fired on enemy positions, wounding 15 Iraqis and destroying 7 trenches. They also damaged a 120-mm enemy mortar. At the fronts west of Dezful, powerful combatants of the ground forces opened artillery fire on enemy positions, killing or wounding 25 of them. They also destroyed four tanks and personnel carriers and one ammunition dump. In addition, they set fire to four enemy observation posts and damaged a number of enemy tanks.

At the Ahvaz fronts, combatants of the ground forces penetrated enemy fronts and dealt heavy blows to defensive positions, thus preventing the enemy from changing positions. As a result, they silenced their artillery and mortar fire. Ten Iraqis were killed in this operation.

At the Susangerd front, an exchange of sporadic fire continued. Selfless air force personnel defended the airspace of our country and shelled enemy personnel positions and bases at the Mared front and killed or wounded a number of Iraqis, inflicting considerable damage on enemy positions.

Exchanges of fire in Mahshawr, Abadan and Khuninshahr continued sporadically and as a result of our combatants artillery and heavy-weapons' fire, some Iraqi positions, bases and ammunition depots were set on fire and sustained damage. At 1630 yesterday some residential parts of Ahvaz also came under artillery fire by the Iraqi aggressor army. In addition, some residential districts and installations in Abadan came under enemy fire. Yesterday, one Iraqi fighter violated the airspace of one of our frontline border towns and was forced to flee by the Iranian antiaircraft fire.

617: 29 Aug Report

LD291824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Aug 81

[Communique 617 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Exchanges of fire between the combative units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saddam's aggressive forces were continuing on most of the country's southern and western fronts in the past 24 hours.

At 1445 yesterday on one of the fronts west of Dezful, the enemy forces, with 50 to 70 tanks, attacked our units, who bravely responded, foiling the attack and foiling the aggressors to retreat.

In the same area three ammunition dumps, one heavy machinegun position and one mortar belonging to Iraqi personnel were destroyed and two tanks were damaged; a number of their troops were killed or wounded.

In the Abadan area 11 trenches and foxholes, 7 observation trenches, 2 mortar positions, 4 heavy machinegun trenches, 3 tanks, 2 vehicles carrying fuel, 1 heavy machinegun and 1 heavy machinegun trench together with its ammunition and crew which belonged to the enemy, were completely destroyed under the intense fire of our combatants and at least 37 of Saddam's deceived troops were killed or wounded.

Also as a result of the heavy-weapons fire of our heroes on the enemy positions, on the other side of the Arvand Rud, three observation trenches, a number of personnel trenches, one 50-mm calibre weapon trench, two heavy machinegun trenches and a quantity of ammunition were destroyed, and a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed.

In the Darkhovin-As-Sulimaniyah area, our fire on enemy tank and mortar emplacements silenced enemy fire at several points.

Also the artillery of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, opening fire on the Basrah oil installations, inflicted relatively heavy losses upon the enemy.

Exchanges of fire were also going on in the Ahvaz area. One 75-mm calibre weapon trench and several trenches and foxholes of the aggressors were destroyed.

On the Farisat front, as a result of artillery fire of our units, two enemy tanks were destroyed. Exchanges of artillery and mortar fire were continuing on the fronts of Gilan-e Gharb, Dar Ballut, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Tang-e Hajiyan sporadically and intensely on the heights of Meymak and (Shur Shirin).

In the course of a clash with an enemy patrol group near (Band Siran), one member of the group was killed and a number were wounded, and the rest escaped.

Also yesterday seven aggressive Iraqi aircraft appeared in southern and western areas of the country and as a result of our air defense units' fire they left.

In the operations carried out on 25 and 26 August of this year, four of our combative brothers, from the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran joined the Caravan of the martyrs. May their souls rest in peace and may their path be followed by many.

618: 30 Aug Report

LD301754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Communique 618 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Gunfire by the gendarmerie combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran stationed in Taleqani Gardens in the (Mesian) region destroyed three vehicles and killed or injured a number of Iraqi personnel. The Iraqi Army aggressors opened up artillery and mortar fire on Qasr-e Shirin and Marivan. A shell exploded in the center of Marivan and injured four residents. On the Marivan front, gunfire by the selfless combatants of the Ground Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Iraqi Army strongholds destroyed 10 trenches, 5 guns, 7 [word indistinct] and jeeps, damaged a headquarters building and killed a number of mercenary enemy personnel.

Gunfire by the heroic Army of Iran on enemy positions on the Kermanshah front silenced the artillery fire of the Iraqi aggressors and destroyed an observation post, two trenches, seven bunkers, a personnel carrier and a vehicle carrying enemy personnel, killing or wounding more than 20 Iraqi military personnel. Precise fire by the heroes of the police force on enemy positions destroyed a trench, a bunker, and a machinegun emplacement of Saddam's army, killing or wounding a number of their personnel.

On the Dezful front, gunfire by the fighting ground force combatants on Iraqi positions destroyed an 82mm mortar, an ammunition depot for small caliber ammunition, four trenches and four bunkers, damaged two observation posts, two vehicles and two tanks and killed more than 20 Iraqi mercenaries.

Navy personnel opened fire on enemy positions on the Abadan-Khorramshahr front and destroyed a field gun and several vehicles. The strong combatants of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions in Seyhan, Sibeh and Al-'Emareh and destroyed a trench, one 106mm gun and an ammunition dump belonging to the Iraqis and inflicted damage and losses to an enemy motorized column. Enemy vehicle movement in (Khabrafteh) road was prevented. Residential districts of Abadan and Dezful came under sporadic enemy heavy weapons' fire. Four residential units in Abadan and one kindergarten were destroyed and 19 people injured. The exact amount of damage sustained in Dezful is not known. Exchange of heavy and light weapons fire continued sporadically between our forces and the enemy in (Shor-e Shirin), Meymak, Ilam, Gilan-e Gharb, Dar Ballut, Tang-e Hajiyan, Ahvaz, Susangerd, Mahshahr, Abadan, Darkhovin and As-Sulimaniyeh.

The Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran gave 11 martyrs and the gendarmerie gave 2 martyrs on 27 and 28 August, adding to those buried in the poppy fields of Iran. May the almighty God accept their martyrdom.